



## What's YOUR Talent?

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) reminds us that we all have talents -- gifts, abilities, resources -- that are to be invested and multiplied. This Lenten Season, we will be asked this simple question: What's YOUR talent?

Have an answer already? Great! Still thinking? That's OK, too. Let's make it more concrete. If you were given small sum of money, how could you use YOUR talents, your energy, your creativity, to turn that small sum into a larger sum? If you had \$100, what would you do?

This is the question many impoverished people across the globe must ask themselves. How can I turn MY talents into a business that will generate an income for my family? How can I house, feed, clothe, and educate my children? Small business loans, called micro-credit finance, transform the dream of economic independence into a reality for millions of people across the globe, people who have TALENTS, but lack the necessary seed money to start a business.

This Lenten Season, we will put this simple "micro-finance" formula into use:

**YOUR TALENT + OUR TREASURE =  
OUR LENTEN OFFERING**

On **February 21st**, the First Sunday of Lent, we will have 60 envelopes each containing \$100. Your challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to add YOUR talent to our treasure, and donate the results to our Lenten Offering. At the very least, you must re-pay the \$100, the principal amount of your micro-loan. At the very most, the sky's the limit. What can YOU do?

Work as an individual or together as a family. Join forces with your Rummage buddies or your book club friends. Be creative! And have fun! Mark your calendar now for our special Lenten Ingathering & Celebration on **Sunday, April 18th**.

All proceeds will benefit Episcopal Relief & Development in their efforts to create economic opportunities for impoverished people around the globe through micro-credit finance, which gives people the tools to work their way out of poverty. ERD provides would-be entrepreneurs with start-up capital as well as training and education in logistics for launching a new venture such as bread baking, sewing, honey production, recycling, and soap making. For more information, please visit [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org).

Questions? Please contact Lisa Kerpan, Chair of the Global Mission Committee, at [lskerpan@kerpan.com](mailto:lskerpan@kerpan.com), or Missy Harrison, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries, at [children@christchurchwinnetka.org](mailto:children@christchurchwinnetka.org).